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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/527,467	03/17/2000	Naoji Shibasaki	Q58416	2781

7590 02/27/2004
Sughrue Mion Zinn MacPeak and Seas PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/527,467

Applicant(s)

SHIBASAKI, NAOJI

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Narayen et al. (US Patent No. 6,035,323).

Narayen teaches an image data management system (103 in fig. 2), comprising:

a plurality of printing stations (i.e., the client computer systems 121, 125, 135, 137 in fig. 2) with functions to read digital image data (201 in fig. 4, col. 6, lines 30-34), to print the data by performing necessary image processing (it is noted that any computer system, which be considered as a printing system, has the ability of performing the printing the image data “col. 1, line 38 and col. 5, lines 51-52”) and to transmit or receive image data (i.e., a modem 123 among of the modems and LAN bus enables to transmit or receive image data);

a management system (i.e., the Internet service providers ISPs 105,107 and the Web Server 109 in fig. 2, col. 4, lines 34-36) connected to each printing system (i.e., 121 in fig. 2) via a network (i.e., the Internet 103 in fig. 2) and used for identifying management data of each printing station (col. 4, lines 27-32 and step of 281 in fig. 7 describes that TCP/IP and HTTP protocols used in the Internet with providers ISP for connecting to each client and receiving the

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image data from each client. Thus, the management system such as ISPs and the Web server 109 would be used for identifying management data) and for distributing necessary data to each printing station (col. 4, lines 34-43); and

a server (111 in fig. 2) for turning the image data, being transmitted from each printing station to the management system, to a database (110 in fig. 2) and for storing the data (col. 4, lines 54-57).

As to claim 2, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches that the image data turned to the database has image categories as attribute information (steps of 205-207 in fig. 4).

As to claim 3, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches that the image data turned to database contains information for public disclosure of the image as attribute information (step of 225-227 in fig. 5).

As to claim 4, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches of that the management system performs remote controlled maintenance on each printing station based on a management data (281 in fig. 7).

As to claim 5, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches that in the printing station, the user can specify an image to be printed as well as an image to be transferred to and stored in the management system from the image displayed on a monitor screen (step of 201 in fig. 4 and step of 227 in 5 for the specified image to be transferred to the Internet. Col. 1, lines 37-40: the user can select image for printing or publication over the network).

As to claim 6, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches that the printing station comprises a photographing equipment (i.e., a digital acquisition device from 201 in fig. 4) and a photograph for certification purposes can be prepared (step of 203 in fig. 4).

As to claim 7, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches the image processing comprises at least one of: correcting a rear light or a reflection light of the image data; correcting a color of the image data automatically for adjusting technical peculiarities applied to an image by an image data acquiring device; correcting color balance of the image data; enlarging or reducing a size of the image data; and removing noise in the image data (step of 271 in fig. 6B).

As to claim 8, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches the printing stations further comprises: a currency processing unit, wherein the currency processing unit identifies currency inserted into the system, processes a cost to be charged to a client, and returns currency to the client (step of 225 in fig. 5, steps of 281, 283 in fig. 7, col. 15, lines 50-51 indicates that the security of the management system is established with the user in the Internet. Thus, the management system would inherently charge to any client, who would like to view the privacy of the image data).

As to claim 9, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and Narayen further teaches the management system comprises a host computer (col. 5, lines 27-29).

As to claim 10, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 2, and Narayen further teaches the attribute information further comprises at least one of a name, an age, a sex, an occupation, an address and a telephone number of an owner of the image data and a date of when

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the image data was obtained (step of 225 in fig. 5 and step of 281 in fig. 7, col. 13, lines 23-25).

As to claim 11, Narayen discloses every feature discussed in claim 2, and Narayen further teaches the image categories comprise: images of family, personal portraits, scenery, animals or plants (step of 201 in fig. 4 and col. 6, lines 30-34: the digital image data is from the digital camera. Thus, the image data would inherently include images of family, personal portraits, scenery, animals or plants "col. 7, lines 3-13").

Response to Arguments

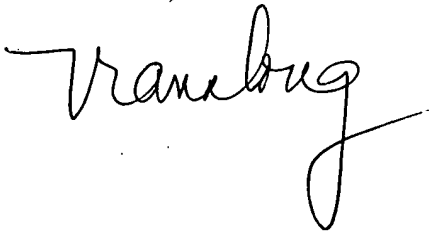
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. This action is made **non-final**.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Feb. 20, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tran Douglas", written in a cursive style.